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REPORT
OF THE
SECRETARY OF WAR.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }
WAR DEPARTMENT, }
Richmond, January 3, 1863. }

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS,
President of the Confederate States of America :

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the action and condition of this Department :

After the toils privations and many battles of the past year, it is gratifying to be able to present the army as fully equal, if not superior, in all the elements of strength to what it has been at any previous period of the war. Its numbers, though still seriously inadequate to fill fully its organizations, yet afford a nearer approximation than heretofore to that result. When, in addition, it is considered that a large proportion of these consists, not of new recruits, but of soldiers inured to the exposures of service and made veterans by the ordeal of constant danger, its superior endurance and stability must readily be acknowledged. It is not deemed requisite to state its precise aggregate, nor to detail the exact proportions of its respective branches of service. It may be sufficient to say generally, in respect to the latter, that it is believed they exist in such respective proportion as approved military judgment considers most promotive of efficiency and co-operation.

The army, thus constituted, could it be recruited and maintained to its full complement, would, in all probability, be the largest in proportion to population ever maintained in actual service by any nation, and would attain the maximum which the production and resources of even the wide expanse and fertile regions of the Confederacy would, without oppressive exactions on the people, render judicious to sustain. Nor, when it is recollected how, with numbers much short of this standard of completion, it has, in the past, generally wrested victory from the far superior forces of the enemy, and repelled the horde of invaders on which, with the presumptuous insolence of anti-

ipated success, our foe have relied to overwhelm us, can it be doubted that such an army would be fully adequate to all future needs and exigencies, and sufficient to assure final peace and independence.

To secure the completion of its numbers, reliance must be placed on the measures of legislation known popularly as the Acts of Conscription, approved, the one on the 16th of April, 1862, and the other on the 27th of September, 1862.

By the first of these acts, all the white male citizens of the Confederacy capable of bearing arms, between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years, with a few guarded exceptions, were constituted soldiers of the Provisional army, and devoted first to filling up the ranks of the old organizations. This was one of the most remarkable ordeals to which the patriotism and self devotion of any people was ever subjected. It was demanded by the imperious necessity of the crisis. Without decadence of the real valor of our people, or their invincible determination to achieve their independence, the first flush of enthusiasm, and the rush of volunteers fired by threatened invasion, had comparatively ceased. Not unnaturally, under experience of the diseases, privations and hardships of the soldier's life, and the influence of delusive hopes of a speedy peace inspired by early victories, the spirit of volunteering had died out. While, however, the ardor of the individual did not suffice for the proffer of self-devotion, the sentiments and convictions of the mass recognized as the most sacred obligation the stern duty of defending, if needs be, with their entire numbers, their imperilled liberty, fortune and honor. They were engaged in a righteous war for all men hold dear. Foes, as malignant in intent, as unscrupulous in means, with numbers unexampled in modern war, aided by patient training, complete organization, and all the appliances of military science, were pressing on for their subjugation or extermination. The contrast presented at the same time by our banded forces was not less striking than discouraging. The periods of enlistment of more than two-thirds of our soldiers were very near their termination, and it was manifest that, notwithstanding the ulterior purpose of the great majority, at some future time to re-enlist in the ranks of the armed defenders of their country, their resolution was not sufficient to resist the prospects cherished for months, amid the sufferings and monotony of the camps, of returning to their homes and there temporarily enjoying their habitual comforts and pleasures. They had, too, for self-justification the plea that they had borne their part of the burthen and peril, and that it was inequitable that numbers equally interested and capable, but only less bold or more prudent, should enjoy all the benefits without sharing in their trials and dangers. Our army was in incipient disorganization, and on the eve of dissolution. The natural consequences ensued in a series of grave disasters. Reverse succeeded reverse. In the east, Roanoke Island, the key to the inland waters of North Carolina, was captured. We had to fall back from Manassas, abandon our defences at Yorktown, and yield Norfolk, with all the advantages of its contiguous navy yard and dock. In the west, Forts Henry and Donelson fell, with the loss, at the latter, of the

gallant force who had victoriously repelled, till exhaustion disabled them, to meet overwhelming numbers. All defences on the Upper Mississippi had to be yielded or abandoned, and Nashville, the capital, and Memphis, the leading city of Tennessee, became the unresisting prey of the victors. Finally, as the crowning stroke of adverse fortune, New Orleans, the commercial emporium of the South, with the forts that guarded the outlet of the great artery of trade in the west, after resistance so feeble as to arouse not less of shame than indignation, passed into the occupancy of our foes. It was the darkest hour of our struggle, and with a people of less heroic resolve and invincible spirit, waging war against hosts avowing such malignant intents, it might well have caused discouragement and dismay. But, to their honor be it said, it only roused a more indomitable will, and nerved to sterner struggles. A supreme effort of self-devotion and courage was recognized as necessary. The bill of conscription was passed and bravely accepted. Its first effect was to retain in the army the soldiers whose terms of enlistment were just expiring. How great the sacrifice involved in the renewal of all their privations and dangers, and the renunciation of their anticipated release and enjoyments, may be better conceived than portrayed. Yet, was there scarce a murmur of disappointment and disaffection, and not an instance, as far as known, of resistance or revolt. Scarce less meritorious was the action of the great body of the people, who, with full realization of all to be encountered, yielded themselves or their dearest kindred to the call of their country's need. The results worthily rewarded such sacrifices. The army was speedily reorganized and recruited, and with sterner sense of its task, and renewed hope, it prepared to meet the exultant foe.

By the rapid concentration of the armies in the west, General A. Sidney Johnston was enabled, with some approximation to equality of force, to strike a decisive blow, and to win the brilliant victory of Shiloh, where the enemy were only saved from utter destruction by the hasty arrival of reinforcements too numerous to be more than successfully repelled.

In the east, the happy boldness of Gen. Magruder at Yorktown, stayed at a critical time the advance of the grand Federal army, destined for the capture of our capital, until our forces, rescued by the consummate strategy of General J. E. Johnson, from the pressure of enveloping armies, could arrive to the rescue. Signal checks, given in partial battles at Williamsburg and elsewhere, dismayed and baffled the Federal army in its advance, until General Johnson had securely withdrawn his forces to his chosen lines of defence. Meanwhile, Gen. Jackson, by a series of rapid movements and bold attacks, in which strategy equalled valor, with far inferior numbers, defeated successively four Generals, with as many armies, swept the Valley of Virginia of hostile forces, made the Federal authorities tremble in their capital, and frustrated the combinations by which the enemy had purposed to aid General McClellan and environ Richmond by large converging armies. During these operations, the grand army of McClellan, inveigled by the skill of General J. E. Johnson to settle down on the

swamps of the Chickahominy to the prudent occupation of digging trenches and earthworks, was, on the first favorable opportunity, stricken with marked success in the severe engagement of the Seven Pines. Unfortunately, before his guidance had consummated victory, General Johnson was wounded and disabled. Our army was then transferred to that consummate commander, General R. E. Lee. Soon thereafter, summoning to his aid General Jackson, the prestige of whose name and recent exploits sufficed for the security of the Valley, he, in pursuance of a plan, as admirably conceived as on his part boldly executed, assailed McClellan in flank and rear, and by a series of bloody victories, drove from their labored defences his grand army. Shattered and dismayed, it cowered for protection under cover of its gunboats, there to swelter and waste beneath the oppressive sun and pestilent malaria of a shadeless plain on the banks of the lower James. Even that measure of good fortune was due solely to those accidental miscarriages in combinations which in war often mar the wisest arrangements. The execution of General Lee's plan, with vigor equal to its conception, must inevitably have eventuated in the capture of the whole demoralized army of the enemy.

While these triumphs were being won, another large army of the enemy was advancing through Piedmont Virginia, towards its central lines of railroad communication, under the command of General Pope. He had disgraced the character of an officer by braggart boasts, and outraged humanity and civilization, by stimulating and sanctioning desolating ravages and vindictive cruelties by his unscrupulous troops. General Jackson, dispatched with a moderate force to stay his progress, administered a speedy rebuke to his arrogant vaunts, and gave an earnest of coming chastisement by defeating, in the sharp engagement of Cedar Run, his advanced division under General Banks.

Soon after, General Lee, despising the shrunken proportions and quelled spirit of the grand army in its unenviable asylum, proceeded, with the larger proportion of his forces, to unite with Jackson and confront the then collected and imposing army of Pope. By a succession of movements, too masterly to be comprehended, and too rapidly executed to be withstood by Pope, he broke up his communications, intercepted his supplies, and by throwing forces in his rear, drove him to rapid flight, chased him from the Rapidan to Bull Run, and at last forced him, but not until sustained by large reinforcements from Washington, to a decisive battle on the already memorable field of Manassas. There a second victory, scarce less decisive than the first, attested the continuing superiority of our troops, and the unchanged favor of the God of Battles. The enemy fled to refuge under their old defences at Arlington, and again spread dread and confusion in their quaking capital. Instead of wasting strength and resources by either assailing the strongholds of the enemy or tarrying in the country wasted by the repeated ravages of war, General Lee, with boldness and dexterity, passed his army rapidly into Maryland. There, with part of his forces, he penetrated to the centre of the State, collecting large stores of much needed supplies, and by stirring appeals, rousing the people of that oppressed State to strike

for their own deliverance. With another portion, the rapid Jackson moved to the capture of Harper's Ferry, with its hostile force of 11,000 men and great stores of munitions and supplies. This was crowned with perfect success, and must be recognized as among the most brilliant achievements of the war.

Under the shock of our victories, in the Valley and around Richmond, and of the successes of our arms in the west, the Federal executive, still tenacious of the hope to crush us by surpassing numbers and resources, had ordered a draft of six hundred thousand more men to be at once furnished and hurried to the support of his still superior but disheartened armies. From the numbers of this call may be inferred, both the extent of the panic and the losses of the enemy, from our successive victories. At the commencement of the campaign they had based their boasts and their hopes on having seven hundred thousand men in arms for our overthrow, and before that campaign was half completed, their fears called for nearly a duplication of their original numbers. While the events last described were occurring, rapid and great additions under this call had been made to the Federal armies, and not merely of untrained levies, since the judicious disposition of them in garrisons and the remoter and less exposed theatres of action, had placed at disposition large numbers of their best troops, whose spirits had not been broken by defeats. By these means Gen. McClellan, who had been summoned with his shattered remnant of the grand army to the defence of the capital, was enabled at the head of an immense army, to issue forth to attack Gen. Lee and relieve Harper's Ferry. The movement, though more prompt than was anticipated, was too late for the latter purpose, as Harper's Ferry had already yielded, yet it brought him in the face of our forces before they had been concentrated from that and their other operations in Maryland. The first shock of his whole force was thus cast on one of the columns of Gen. Lee's army, guarding his rear at Boonsboro', and though most bravely sustained and even repelled by the gallant Gen. D. H. Hill, yet his necessary retirement to the point of combination selected by Gen. Lee, gave to the enemy the appearance of a first success, and was unscrupulously trumpeted as a great victory, to animate the hopes and courage of the Federal army. Thus reinspired, with treble odds of numbers and artillery, they ventured an attack on Gen. Lee in the position near Sharpsburg, where he had collected the larger portion of the forces remaining to him after so many arduous marches and glorious victories. The battle, protracted from morn to night, was stubborn and bloody, but resulted in the final repulse of the enemy from all our positions. The field remained in our occupancy, and the next morning, to the challenging fire of our guns, no response was made, and no enemy appeared. McClellan had withdrawn, as afterwards appeared, some five miles in retreat. The victory was ours, but gained over numbers already overwhelming and certain to be immediately reinforced, it could not be followed up and improved. Exhausted by the unwonted celerity of past movements, and by the inevitable losses of his many victories, and exposed to have his communications and supplies intercepted by his host of foes, Gen. Lee judiciously with-

drew his army with all its numbers and stores in safety across the Potomac. The enemy finding in this movement of wise precaution a pretext for the arrogant claim of victory, followed to the river bank, but ventured not to assail their retiring conquerors, much less to cross the river in pursuit. Our gallant army, in proud defiance of the hosts gathered on the opposite shore, rested and recruited on the Virginia side, with the satisfaction of having well nigh destroyed two grand armies of invaders, and severely staggered a third, more numerous than either. A pause of martial inaction followed for some weeks, and may be considered as affording a termination in the east to one of the most remarkable campaigns of history.

In the west, less brilliant, but still very decisive, successes attended our arms. From the effects of the victory of Shiloh, and of the re-invigorated ranks and spirits of our forces under the action of the conscript law, our armies in each department prepared to make active advances, and by combined movements pressing forward their discouraged and retreating foes, to repossess the country previously occupied by them, and to go forward to the redemption of the State of Kentucky, and the attack of one or more of the leading cities of the west. In the prosecution of this plan, North Alabama and Mississippi were speedily cleared of the footsteps of the foe. All of Tennessee, save the strongholds of Memphis and Nashville, and the narrow districts commanded by them, were retrieved, and by converging armies, nearly the whole of Kentucky was occupied and held. The signal victory of Richmond was won, with the capture and dispersion of nearly the whole much superior forces of the enemy, by the skill and valor of Gen. E. Kirby Smith and his brave command. While a series of brilliant cavalry movements and successes, won by the gallant Col. Morgan, broke up all efforts on the part of the disaffected unionists or scattered Federal forces to rally and combine, and afforded at once, protection and encouragement to rise, to the loyal citizens of the State. These movements threatened the safety, and excited the greatest consternation of the cities of Cincinnati and Louisville.

Meanwhile, Gen. Braxton Bragg, with a well appointed army, trained and disciplined under his efficient organization, moved boldly forward through Tennessee and Kentucky. By doing this he so flanked and endangered the rear of Gen. Buell, in command of the leading army of the enemy in the west, as to compel him to rapid retreat, for refuge and reinforcements, on the Ohio at Louisville, or elsewhere. Had Gen. Buell, as might naturally have been expected from his numbers, been more bold to encounter his enemy, or less rapid in his flight, Gen. Bragg would probably have accomplished, after sweeping all foes from before him in Middle Kentucky, the great object of overthrowing Buell's army and capturing Louisville. Unfortunately, Buell effected evasion of battle, and escaped safely to that city, which, under the occupancy of his army, became too strong for assault. Sheltered in Louisville, Buell was enabled to receive and organize the very large reinforcements which the draft of the Federal Government, and the dread of invasion in the populous States of the Northwest, caused to be forwarded with extraordinary dispatch. His

forces, before superior, became vastly larger than all our commands in Kentucky, and he began by various movements to threaten our connections and communications with the more Southern States.—About the same time, the diversions which were expected to be made by our forces still remaining on the southern borders of West Tennessee, towards Memphis and Nashville, failed of anticipated success. One division sustained a check at Iuka and was obliged to fall back, and some time later the whole command, in a most daring and determined attack on the entrenched positions of the enemy at Corinth, were defeated with serious loss and driven to a rapid retreat.

Before these events had fully occurred, General Bragg had concluded that prudence required the present withdrawal of our armies from Kentucky, and the removal into security of the large, and under our circumstances, most valuable supplies of every kind which had been collected during the occupancy of that abundant and unexhausted country. His arrangements were being made with due care and deliberation for these ends, and portions of his forces, preceded by immense trains, were already moving Southward, when General Buell, under the encouragement of his great numbers, at last ventured attack on one of his divisions. The result was, when comparative forces are considered, the brilliant victory to us of Perryville. Its results were seen in the subsequent prudent avoidance of all interruption or disturbance by the enemy to the quietly retreating columns of our armies with their gathered stores, who resumed commanding positions of their selection in the State of Tennessee. Thus, in Kentucky, as in Virginia, our armies, not conquered or repelled, but diminished by their own successes, were, from mere paucity of numbers, constrained to retire to avoid environment by overwhelming forces, but under the protecting prestige of victory, were prudently respected and unassailed by their enemies.

Of the various operations of our forces on more limited theatres, it is impracticable, within reasonable limits, to give a succinct account. It is sufficient to say, generally, that from the reorganization of our army, and the turn in the tide of fortune, that successes have been numerous and reverses very few, and that, with scarce an exception, in small actions as in great engagements, the superior skill of our officers and valor of our soldiers have been signally vindicated.

More special allusion, however, is due to the memorable repulses of the enemy with their formidable gunboats at Drewry's Bluff, near Richmond, and at Vicksburg. At each were illustrated not more signally the fortitude and valor of the armed defenders, than the heroic resolve and self-devotion of the citizens, who preferred for their fair cities' destruction to subjugation. The examples were pregnant with monition and encouragement. The gunboats lost their prestige of terror. Cities ceased to be abandoned or surrendered on the approach of a foe, and all were taught how freemen, above fear and ready for all sacrifice, may proudly defy the most potent agencies of modern warfare.

The foregoing detail has been indulged in from a double purpose. First, to render a tribute of justice to our armies, whose grand

achievements, being then in process of accomplishment, my predecessor, from considerations of prudence, abstained in his last report from commemorating; and secondly, and more especially, to demonstrate the imperious necessity that demanded the first enactment of conscription, and the glorious effects that at once vindicated the wisdom of its adoption, and repaid the sacrifices of our soldiers and people in accepting it. It is hardly too much to say, that it wrought our salvation from destruction or infamous thralldom. Could it indeed have been somewhat sooner adopted, or more speedily and thoroughly executed, it may well be doubted whether the first act alone might not have sufficed to have extorted from our obdurate foes, in their own capital, or on their own conquered soil, permanent peace and independence. At the culminating point of our late successful advances, could fifty thousand more troops of the Confederacy have been added to the victorious armies of Generals Lee and Bragg, the full fruition of our highest hopes would almost have been assured. In no spirit of vain regret is the reflection indulged, but because of its deep practical monition for the future. In lieu of such happy consummation, our triumphal progress was arrested and our victorious armies compelled to retire before the hosts summoned to the field by the large draft of the Federal Government. The same necessity is therefore again pressing on our people with scarce less stringent urgency. In wise prevision of it, the second act of conscription, heretofore referred to, was judiciously provided by Congress at its last session, giving to your Excellency the power to call into the Provisional Army all subject to military duty between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five, or such part thereof as in your judgment was necessary to the public defence. Under this act, you have called into service, for the present, only those between the ages of thirty-five and forty, who are subject to military service, and not exempted by an act passed soon after, known as the Exemption Act, exempting certain classes of persons, and such others as the President shall be satisfied on account of justice, equity or necessity ought to be exempted. The call, as well as the first Act of Conscription, are now being actively executed by the department. A sub-bureau, attached to the Adjutant General's Department, has been organized, charged with this subject exclusively. In every State one or more Camps of Instruction for the reception and training of conscripts, has been or is being established in judiciously selected locations. To each State an officer, styled a Commandant of Conscripts, is appointed, charged with the supervision of the enrolment and instruction of conscripts, and he recommends a surgeon, a quartermaster, a commissary and the drillmasters requisite.

Pursuant to another Act of Congress, approved October 11, 1862, in each city, county, parish, or district in the several States, a place of rendezvous for persons enrolled is established, where they are examined by surgeons, and in each Congressional District a board of three surgeons is appointed to make the examinations aforesaid. It has not been found practicable to spare from the service of the armies and hospitals a sufficient number of Confederate Surgeons to constitute these, but at least one in each district will be associated with local

surgeons of repute for the duty, and the effort will be made to prevent, by exchanges with other districts, surgeons of any particular county from officiating on the conscripts therefrom. In at least each county or city an enrolling officer is expected to act, and he is instructed to enrol all not of the exempted classes, between the specified ages of eighteen and forty, so that those who have evaded or been neglected in former enrolments, and the number startlingly large of soldiers who, on one pretence or another, are avoiding service, as well as those embraced by your late call, may be subjected to duty.

In the enforcement of these laws of conscription, the Department is constrained to be inflexible, and even appear harsh. The sacrifices exacted for service are painfully realized, but they are felt to be imperatively demanded for the public safety. The exemptions, though far more liberal in the last than the former act, still affect comparatively few, and those of certain limited classes, while the exempting power vested in your discretion seems to contemplate only individual cases of persons who ought to be exonerated "on account of justice, equity or necessity." In considering the character of the classes exempted, it is evident that Congress contemplated the enumeration of all of the prescribed ages, whose offices or functions seemed more essential to the public weal at home than in the service. The principle of the bill is, therefore, that the whole necessary operations of society and business can and must be done by the exempts, and those above and below the prescribed ages, while all other white males, capable of bearing arms, shall be in the armies of the Confederacy, for the sacred duty of public defence.

This principle the Department rigidly applies, with but few inconsiderable exceptions of the clearest equity or necessity. An impression has strangely prevailed, that the exemptions prescribed by the act availed, as well to discharge from the army, as to exonerate from the call of conscription. For this no foundation can be found in the law, while the earnest aim clearly expressed in the first act to retain the army as absolutely essential, as well as the general phraseology of the law, excludes such construction. The whole scope and operation of the second act apply exclusively to those to be subjected to the expected call of the President, and the act of exemption, passed to limit and define it, can, of course, have no wider stretch. The very term exemption implies freedom from a call to be made, not discharge from existing service. It is well, too, in every view, that such is the only reasonable construction of the act, for a more mischievous mode could hardly have been devised to weaken and dissatisfy the army, than to have made the grounds of exemption causes of discharge. Apart from the inevitable loss in numbers to the army, it could not be expected that the soldiers not embraced seeing comrades equally capable of service discharged on such grounds, as, for instance, that they had plantations with twenty slaves without other male adult on them, or because of their addiction to special mechanical, mining or manufacturing pursuits, would not feel the gravest discontent and indignation. Demoralization, if not more disastrous effects, must inevitably have ensued.

There are certain classes of officers and employees, not exactly engaged in State or Confederate service, yet so important in their public ministry, such as the officers and police of cities, firemen, superintendents of water or gas works, and the like, and others again essential to corporations private in interest, but highly important to the transaction of general business, or to works of public benevolence, such as the officers and clerks of express companies, of leading banks, evangelical societies and similar institutions, to whom it might be advisable to extend the privilege of exemption. The classes of tradesmen or mechanics exonerated in deference to the peculiar needs of society, might also be enlarged.

There are, too, in the Confederacy districts of not very fertile country, where the citizens are generally in moderate circumstances, and have few or no slaves. The draft on them of all the males between eighteen and forty will probably remove their laboring classes to such an extent as to endanger scarcity and even destitution among the remainder. Some relaxation of the law, graduating the number to be conscribed in proportion to the deficiency of slave labor in any country or district, would be both equitable and judicious.

One of the exemptions of the act, that which "to secure the proper police of the country" exempts "one person on each plantation of twenty negroes, on which there is no white male adult not liable to military duty," has caused, in many portions of the Confederacy, dissatisfaction and complaint. This has been, in many instances, from mere invidiousness in regarding the slaves merely as property, and not as a servile class to be controlled from considerations of general safety. In others where the slaves are regarded only as helpless dependents to be cared for and directed. The claim has been asserted that similar privilege of exemption should at least be accorded to those who had many helpless children or females dependent solely on their care or labor. The latter view would alone seem entitled to consideration.

It would probably relieve the law from much odium, and yet promote only equity and the public good, if where, as in cases not unfrequently presented, eight or ten helpless whites are dependent on one male friend within the prescribed ages, exemption should be accorded by law.

It will be observed, you have not yet exhausted your power of call. The faithful execution of that mode it is confidently hoped will dispense with the need of further draft on those, who from their age are apt to be, by their larger ties and interests, most essential to society. Our armies may thus be adequately recruited and maintained at the maximum required by their organizations. More need scarce be desired.

The organization of the army has been advanced by the appointment, under the act of Congress, of seven Lieutenant Generals. They were all Major Generals, and selected for approved skill, conduct and experience. They are all now in active service, some commanding separate departments, and others heading army corps under a General in the field. Major and Brigadier Generals in requisite numbers to meet the exigencies of the service, have been appointed and assigned.

The policy of organizing the brigades with troops and Generals from the several States, has been pursued, and as opportunities offer, without detriment to the service, will be carried out. The greater satisfaction of the men from each State, when collected together, the generous emulation for glory to their State, and the fair apportionment of officers assured to each State according to its contribution of defenders to the country, will, it is hoped, overbalance the inconvenience of separating regiments or companies previously associated, and the liability to State jealousies. The policy will be persisted in to a full trial of its merits.

The military courts authorized at the last session of Congress have been constituted. In making the appointments, while qualifications were first considered, preference among the applicants was, as far as the range of choice allowed, given to those who had been wounded or disabled in service. These tribunals supply a need much felt by our commanders in the field. The necessity of frequent courts-martial causes much embarrassment and many delays. Without them now the prompt administration of the military law may be secured, desertion and straggling checked, license of all kinds restrained, and temperance, discipline and subordination advanced.

The various branches of special service heretofore established have proven judicious and worked generally well.

The battalion of sharpshooters attached to each brigade has done much to restore our superiority as marksmen, which had begun to be endangered by the guns of long range and constant practice therewith, of our less skilful adversaries. On many occasions, their efficiency, as well as the valor of these battalions, has been strikingly exhibited, and they are now regarded as almost a necessity to a proper organization.

The appointments of artillery officers for ordnance service, and of engineers, have as yet been made only in part. Boards, however, have been constituted for the examination of candidates, and are required to hold their sessions in different parts of the Confederacy, so as to afford similar facilities of access to those at a distance from the capital. Some sessions have been held and reports have been made assigning the order of merit in which the successful candidates have passed. It is the purpose of the department, when these lists have been completed, to make the appointments from them, and as justice and implied faith seem to demand, to give priority in commission according to the reported grades of qualification.

The engineer officers already appointed and acting, have proved most efficient aids, as well in field operations as in local works and defences. They have had, however, no special corps of men, but only such as when occasion required, were detailed for the special service. It may be well doubted whether a company or two in each brigade should not be specially devoted to engineering work, and be exclusively commanded by engineer officers. Greater skill and efficiency could not fail to be attained by the men so employed, while the inconveniences which often arise from the delay in special details, and the occasional controversies arising between the officers in command

of the detailed men and the engineer officers guiding their operations, would be avoided. In connection with such a corps, a company of pioneers and pontoniers armed only with revolvers and sabres, but carrying some effective tool, as an axe, a pick or a spade, might be advantageously constituted, under the command of an engineer officer. One detachment of them might precede each brigade in its march, smothering the roads and bridging the small streams, while another should accompany the trains, prepared to remove impediments, or give prompt assistance in case of accidents. The celerity of army movements, on which often great results depend, would be sensibly increased by such an arrangement.

The officers for ordnance service, as far as appointments have been made, have rendered the distribution of munitions and the supply of arms and artillery more regular and complete, and have, at the same time, promoted economy in consumption, care in preservation, and greater efficiency in their use.

The signal corps has been filled and organized, and is now in effective operation. It justifies the expectations entertained of its utility, and contributes materially to the dispatch of orders, the transmission of intelligence, and the general safety of the army.

The policy of organizing corps of Partizan Rangers has not been approved by experience. The permanency of their engagements and their consequent inability to disband and reassemble at call, precludes their usefulness as mere guerillas, while the comparative independence of their military relations, and the peculiar rewards allowed them for captures, induce much license and many irregularities. They have not unfrequently excited more odium and done more damage with friends than enemies. The men composing them would be more useful in the regular organizations, and while the department has been reluctant to disband them, it avoids raising more, and endeavors to persuade and promote the conversion of existing corps into similar bodies in the line of the Provisional Army.

The principle now applicable to nearly all the regimental and company organizations, of promotion by seniority, and of election in the lowest grade only, is believed to have given more satisfaction than did that of general election. A feeling of greater security and more professional pride is engendered, and stronger inducements are presented to all subordinate officers to improve and prepare themselves for higher positions. Still, in an army where a large proportion of the officers have had no previous military training or experience, due assurance cannot be felt of the competency of those on whom promotion may, by this rule, be cast. A provision against gross incompetency is, indeed, made by the authority conferred by act of Congress for the convening of a board to determine qualifications, but resort to this remedy is naturally odious, and in practice it proves but little efficacious. It is not to be denied, too, that promotion by seniority alone represses ambitious aspirations, and the spirit of enterprise and daring which promotion by merit inspires. Some recognition of this, and desire to avoid its effects, have been manifested by the enactments of Congress allowing promotions to be made by the President in cases

of distinguished skill and valor, but save in the rare case where recommendation of extraordinary merit is given by the commanding general, such appointments can only be made to a vacancy in the company, battalion or regiment to which the party is attached. Besides, where promotion by seniority is the almost invariable rule, the exercise of this appointing power becomes odious, is construed into injustice to all the inferior officers of the special organization, and breeds discontent and dissension. In consequence, it is very rarely exercised, and the injurious effects of promotion by seniority alone are not by this provision effectively counteracted. It is suggested that some beneficial effect in inspiring to deeds of valor and the display of extraordinary merit, would result from confining election to the lowest grade, (the starting point on the road to honors) to those, if any were in the company, who had been recommended by their commanders for distinguished skill and valor. This would not deprive the company of the privilege of election, but would confine the choice among the most worthy. Still the higher and more important grades would be supplied only by seniority, and, with deference, it is recommended, that some mode be devised by the wisdom of Congress to have vacancies of that class more frequently the rewards of high deeds and superior qualifications. This is the more necessary since the commissions of officers in the provisional army being dependent on the continuance of their organizations, some of the most valuable in the service have been thrown out by the dissolution or disbanding of their companies or regiments, when, often through their own gallantry, too much reduced for service. Under the present system, however meritorious or efficient, there is no place for them in the line, and they can only be replaced in the army by conscription as privates. This is scarce less unjust than impolitic. Some provision should be adopted by which such officers should retain their commissions, or the privilege of appointment to vacancies which they are eminently fitted to fill should be accorded to them. The hardships to the officers in such cases, together with reluctance to lose their services, has sometimes induced generals in command, particularly in the more distant departments, to assign such officers temporarily to vacancies, for which the officers entitled by seniority were known to be less competent, or to special duties. An embarrassment results. The officers, in some cases, after long service, find that they have lost their commissions by the previous disbanding of their commands, and can neither be recognized nor receive their pay as officers. Some appropriation to meet such cases, and provide compensation at least for the period of their actual service, should be provided.

In this connection another interesting class of cases deserves passing notice. It has repeatedly happened that officers who have raised companies or regiments, or who have been passed over by a State with their commands to the Confederate service, after joining some of our armies, but before their muster rolls have been duly returned, or notice properly given to the Adjutant General, have been captured, or had their commands broken up and dispersed by the enemy. Some, in such cases, have pined long in prison, others have served in assigned

commands for months, and when either exchanged, or led to apply for recognition and pay as officers, have found no authority in the department to allow either. Several cases like these of peculiar hardship occurred among the officers of the Louisiana State troops transferred to the Confederate service, who were either captured or dispersed after the fall of New Orleans. It is recommended that whenever their imprisonment or service as officers can be satisfactorily established, payment to them be authorised by law.

Measures to afford adequate supplies of ordnance, arms and munitions for the army have claimed the earnest attention of the department. The increased stringency of the blockade by the enemy, while it has made the importation of sufficient supplies more difficult and costly, has at the same time induced more energetic efforts to find and develop all internal resources. The results so far are very encouraging. Our present supplies are at least as abundant as they have been at any time past, and our prospects for the future more promising. Two establishments, in addition to the leading one heretofore existing at this city, for making ordnance have been founded in interior towns under the auspices of the department, one of which is already in successful operation, and the other will be in a very short time. Besides these, some smaller establishments have been fostered and engaged in similar work. Thus the serious anxiety which resulted from dependence on a single establishment, liable to be interrupted by casualties or the chances of war, has been removed, and a larger provision secured for future supplies. Of small arms, the department can now furnish stores more adequate to the requirements of the army than at any preceding date, while of munitions it entertains now no dread of deficiency. In these particulars also, by the encouragement and establishment of manufactures within the Confederacy, the department is daily becoming less dependent on foreign supply, and it indulges the hope that it will, at no remote period, be able to dispense altogether with that reliance. In this connection, it would be injustice not to refer to the efficient aid which has been rendered by the Nitre Bureau, which is charged with much more general operations than its name would indicate. The most serious embarrassment to be apprehended, in reference to the ordnance supplies, is in the deficiency of iron. Before the war, nearly all iron works within the States of the Confederacy had languished or decayed, and from the sense of precariousness in the future and the scarcity of suitable labor, it has been very difficult to establish them in sufficient numbers and on an adequate scale to meet the necessities of the war. It has been necessary that the department should stimulate enterprise by large advances and liberal contracts, and likewise contribute by details to the supply of labor. Many new furnaces have been established, and those in operation have been enlarged and tempted to continue more uninterruptedly in blast. If the contracts made with the department are only fully carried out, it is believed the supply will prove adequate, but there are many difficulties in the prosecution of the work from the enhancement of all prices and from the temptations constantly offered to contractors to prefer the superior profits which

they can command by supplying the general market. In some instances the department has had no alternative but to resort to impressment to enforce the fulfilment of its contracts or to supply its pressing necessities.

Embarrassments of the like nature have affected the operations of the Quartermaster and Subsistence Departments. For some of the leading articles required by the former, reliance has necessarily been placed to a considerable extent on foreign supplies, since they are not adequately furnished within the Confederate States. This has been specially the case with woollens and leather, and under the losses and interruptions caused by the blockade, there have been at times rather scant supplies of blankets, shoes and some other articles of clothing. Still, by using to the utmost internal resources, by the establishment of factories and the organization of workshops, and by greater economy in use, the army has never been allowed seriously to suffer. Of late greater success has attended importations, and besides, contracts for supplies have been made on liberal terms to so large an extent that security is now felt of timely and abundant provision. To attain a result so indispensable to the comfort and preservation of our gallant armies, the department will spare no exertion or sacrifice.

For due supplies of forage and subsistence, reliance has been placed on the productions and resources of the Confederacy alone, and so far they have proved abundant. They are, however, more affected by the peculiar circumstances of the country. The harvests of the past season have not generally proved propitious, and notwithstanding the much larger breadth of land devoted to the culture of cereals and forage, the product in many extensive districts of the Confederacy is below the average and in some even threatens scarcity. The cost and want of transportation make difficult the collection, distribution and equalization of such products. In addition, the ravages of war, prosecuted by our malignant enemies in shameful violation of all civilized usage for the ends of rapine or destruction, have desolated considerable districts of fertile country. The districts thus devastated have been, too, mainly those which have heretofore afforded the largest supplies of meat. The rearing of animals for food has been since the war very generally increased throughout the Confederacy, and from other districts larger supplies than heretofore may be expected. Still the scarcity of grain and forage must check considerably this increased production, and render adequate supplies for the future more doubtful. A yet graver cause renders the procurement of the supplies that exist difficult. The redundant issue of treasury notes, which the needs of the treasury has made inevitable, by inflating the currency far beyond the wants of the country for a circulating medium, has caused a great enhancement of all prices, and inspired a general and inordinate spirit of speculation. As the cause of enhancement has been and must be continuous, being the necessary issue of treasury notes, so the increase in prices has been, and without check from legislation must be, steadily progressive. This is so understood or has been so experienced by all classes, that there is the strongest repugnance on the part of all

having necessary supplies to sell, to part with them even at the exaggerated current rates, from the conviction that a longer holding will assure still higher prices. This motive is so influential and general, that it is next to impossible to supply the necessities of the government at fair prices, or by voluntary contracts.

Resort to the power of impressment has become an absolute necessity for the support of our armies. It is a power of great delicacy, liable to perversion and abuse, and should be surrounded by every safeguard of equity consistent with its exercise. The sanction and regulation of the power, by law, is earnestly commended to the early consideration of Congress. By controlling the transportation on the railroads on some judicious general system, and the due regulation and exercise of the power of impressment, the evils referred to may, in a measure, be remedied, and the supplies absolutely essential may be commanded. But it is not to be disguised that a more complete remedy is desirable, and that it can only be found in the regulation of the currency, the cessation of inflation, and the consequent reduction of prices to a more stable standing. This more appropriately pertains to the province of the Treasury Department, by the able head of which it will doubtless be fully presented. As, however, the War Department is the great consumer, and most prejudiced by this evil, it may be pardonable to say, that there is but one radical remedy. That is easy and simple. It is by legislation to limit the negotiability of the treasury notes, so that there shall never be outstanding, at any one time, more than the maximum required for the circulation of the Confederacy.

The estimates of the several bureaux of this Department for the period ending June 30th, 1863, are herewith submitted. They will be found to be large, but not larger, it is believed, than the exigencies of the service require.

An interesting report, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is herewith submitted. During the past summer, there were among the tribes in the Indian country some agitations and disturbances, which threatened internal conflicts, and a possible outbreak upon the contiguous States. They have, however, been happily appeased, and there is every reason now to expect tranquility among themselves, and their amity and alliance with the Confederate States.

From the preceding imperfect review may be found assurances of the increasing power, means and resources of the Confederacy for the successful prosecution of the war. We have room, too, for gratulation at the firmness, unity and self-devotion of our people, and the skill and valor of our generals and soldiers, and much cause of devout gratitude to the God of battles, for the signal triumphs vouchsafed over the hosts of our malignant foes.

Nor can I conclude without commemorating another glorious victory that has just given added cause of thankfulness and rejoicing. Gen. Lee and his noble command have, at Fredericksburg, hurled back in dismay, and with frightful slaughter, the grand army of invasion, engaged for the fourth time in the vain task of conquering our capital. They had sacked and desolated the town, one of the most respectable

of the State, with rapacity and brutality that would have disgraced savages, and it was made the appropriate scene of their retribution, for its streets were piled with their dead and wounded. From the face of the avengers they slunk away amid storm and darkness, leaving to our gallant army the assurance of acknowledged superiority, and according to all a bright augury of their future total expulsion from our soil.

Such happy result will likewise be advanced by the renewed gallant repulse of the enemy's combined attack by land and water on Vicksburg, and by the decided victory of General Bragg and his brave command, which, on the 31st ultimo, crowned the triumphs of the year. Scarcely less hopeful assurance is afforded by the indecisive and bloody struggle of the second instant, while resulting in the temporary retirement of General Bragg's forces to a better line of defence, inflicted such grievous losses on the enemy as to leave his army too shattered and dismayed to follow.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

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REPORT
OF
THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }
WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, }
RICHMOND, January 12, 1863. }

HON. JAMES A. SEDDON,

Secretary of War :

SIR : I have the honor most respectfully to submit for your consideration the following report in regard to the operations of this office, and the condition of the Indians west of Arkansas.

On the 3rd day of April, 1862, at the first session of the first Congress, commencing on the 18th day of the previous February, the sum of \$389,725.42 was appropriated to carry into effect treaty stipulations made with these Indians, and to meet current and contingent expenses of the Superintendency of Indian Affairs and the different agencies to November 30th, 1862. The amount expended for the purposes intended has been \$213,597 73, leaving of said appropriation, unexpended and unrequired, \$176,127 69.

The appropriation under consideration was based upon estimates prepared and submitted by this office ; and, as will be perceived by the figures above given, largely exceeded the amount required. This was owing to the failure of Agents to supply this office, as is provided for by law, with quarterly estimates of the sums necessary for distribution within the limits of their respective districts, and to meet the expenses of their several agencies. Reference is made to this fact simply to account for the large overplus in the appropriation, and is not intended as a complaint against those officers—the difficulty of communication between the seat of government and the Indian country, and other circumstances incident to the present war, being suffi-

cient grounds of justification for non-compliance with this branch of their official duty. The same causes, too, it is proper to state in this connection, have, no doubt, operated to prevent them from promptly settling their accounts and keeping this office fully informed of the condition and sentiments of the Indians confided to their care.

• In the month of August, of the year which has just closed, information from sources entitled to credit, was communicated to the Confederate government, of a nature calculated to excite some apprehensions, on its part, with regard to the permanency of its relations with certain of the Indian nations and tribes. In view of this fact it was deemed advisable for me to proceed at once to the Indian country; and orders to that effect were issued from the War Department early in the ensuing month. I was instructed to carry with me, for disbursement, the Indian moneys appropriated by Congress April 3rd, 1862, to which allusion has hereinbefore been made; to acquaint myself, as far as practicable, during my stay in the Indian country, with the wants and condition of its people; and to use all proper and legitimate means to satisfy them of the determination of this government to fulfill all of its promises and obligations to them; to pay them, as regularly as possible, their annuities, &c.; and to protect them and their homes from the encroachments of all enemies.

In obedience to these orders, on the morning of the 13th September, I left Richmond, but owing to misconnections of trains upon certain railroads, and the difficulty, at times, of procuring suitable transportation, I did not enter the Indian country until the middle of October. I left it, upon my return to this place, about the 1st December, having remained within its limits about a month and a half.

During this time I had repeated interviews with Samuel Garland, Principal Chief of the Choctaws; Winchester Colbert, Governor of the Chickasaws; Stand Watie, Principal Chief of the Cherokees; Motey Kennard and Echo Harjo, Chiefs of the Upper and Lower Creeks; John Jumper, Chief of the Seminoles, and other men of authority in these nations.

From conversations had with them, and from information derived through other reliable channels, it was evident that a spirit of dissatisfaction had manifested itself, prior to my arrival, among portions of their people. It had resulted from the delay of this government—unavoidable, it is true, but of the facts of which they had not been fully advised, or, did not comprehend,—in complying with certain of its engagements to them. This dissatisfaction did not amount to real distrust of the good faith of the Confederate States. It was, however, a beginning in that direction; and had it been permitted to continue, for any length of time, the most disastrous consequences might have ensued.

The task of removing it I found to be one of no great difficulty. Indeed the mere fact of the government having sent an officer from the Capital to their country, charged with the especial duty of conferring with them, and ascertaining by this means and through personal observation, their wants and condition, was to them such a signal and conclusive mark of its favor and good will, that but little was

left for me to do in the premises. A simple and brief explanation of the past action of the government in their behalf, coupled with the assurance of its unalterable determination to watch over and protect them, was all-sufficient to banish every trace of discontent from their minds. The substance of my official remarks to the authorities of the different nations is contained in an address issued to them from this office a few days ago, and the manner in which they were received is shown by extracts from a series of resolutions of the Choctaw Council and a written communication from the Creek Chiefs, after my interviews with them—all of which are herewith respectfully submitted.

It must not be supposed, in the reference here made, to the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole nations, the idea is sought to be conveyed that all these Indians have proven loyal to their treaty engagements with the Confederate States. Such is by no means the fact. Indeed it is true only with regard to one of them.

The Choctaws alone, of all the Indian nations, have remained perfectly united in their loyalty to this government. It was said to me by more than one influential and reliable Choctaw, during my sojourn in their country, that not only had no member of that nation ever gone over to the enemy, but that no Indian had ever done so, in whose veins coursed Choctaw blood.

The Chickasaws have been less, but scarcely less fortunate in this regard, than their brothers, the Choctaws. About forty families, in a body, were induced to desert their country about the time of the alliance of their nation with the Confederate States. With this exception no instances of disaffection have been known amongst them.

Of the Seminoles at least one-half have proved disloyal, and have deserted their country. Their Chief, John Jumper, however, has ever exhibited unshaken fidelity to the Confederate cause, and those of his people who have remained with him are composed of the same staunch material with himself.

The Creeks have lost about a thousand or fifteen hundred of their people. Ho-poth-li-Yo-ho-la's defection carried off almost all of these, as well as the forty families of Chickasaws before alluded to, and the major part of the Seminoles.

Of the Cherokees not less than one-half followed Ross, when he deserted his country. Almost the whole of the worth and talent of the nation, however, was left behind him, and is now clustered about Stand Watie, its present gallant and patriotic Principal Chief.

In reference to the condition and feelings of the small tribes located in the north-eastern corner of the Indian country—the Osages, Quapaws, Senecas, and Shawnees—but little is known. Their country exposed, as it is, to invasion by Kansas desperadoes, has been completely under the control of the North, almost from the day of their having entered into treaties with this government. On this account one hundred and fifty families of the Great Osage tribe left their homes long ago, and took refuge with the Creeks. Three of the leading men among these refugees—a chief, Black Dog, and two others—visited me at Fort Smith, on the line of Arkansas and the

Indian country. They seemed to believe that a majority of their brother Osages, which is the only one of these bands of any strength or importance, were still true and loyal, although fear had kept them from making a decided manifestation of it. At any rate, according to their statement, no acts of hostility had ever been perpetrated by them against the Confederate States. The other bands, they thought, had sided with the enemy.

The Indians settled upon the district lying between the 98th and 100th parallels of west longitude and the Red and Canadian rivers, and known as the Reserve Indians, have not, of late, been doing very well. At the time these Indians were taken under the guardianship of the Confederate States, they numbered, including men, women and children, about two thousand souls, and consisted of Comanches, Wichitas, Caddos, Anadagheos, Toncawes, Tahuacaros, Huecos, Kichais and Aionais. Provision was made for feeding them at the expense of the government, and placing with them white men to give them instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts.

Anterior to my visit to the Indian country, false representations were made to these Indians, by mischievous persons, of a threatened inroad into the Reserve district of a band of Texans, with hostile intentions; and all, or nearly all of the Wichitas, Caddos, Tahuacaros, Huecos, Aionais and Kichais, ran away. These desertions reduced the number of Indians upon the Reserve, at least one-half.

Information in regard to this untoward event did not reach me until my arrival at Fort Washita, in the Chickasaw country, where, at the same time, I was also met by news from the Reserve of a still more unpleasant character.

Letters from the quartermaster of the Chickasaw battalion, stationed at Arbuckle, had just been received at Washita, giving an account of a serious attack upon the Reserve by a band of marauding Indians. At the former post, to which I immediately proceeded in the company of Gen. Pike, I learned the particulars of the affair from Dr. Sturm, the issuing commissary for the Reserve, and Dr. Shirley, a merchant at the Agency, both of whom were in the neighborhood at the time of its occurrence.

The marauding party scarcely exceeded one hundred in number, and were composed of Shawnees, who had deserted from John Jumper's battalion, Delawares, Kickapoos, and a few disloyal Seminoles and Cherokees. They made their appearance at the Agency between nine and ten o'clock, on the night of the 23d October. Whether any of the Reserve Indians had a knowledge of their coming is not certainly known. They, however, took no part in the outrage.

Four of the white employces at the Agency were surprised and murdered. Their names were Bickel, Harrison, Outzen and Turman.

During the night, the murderers, after having plundered the Agency building, burned it to the ground. No other house was destroyed.

The following morning they attacked the Toncawes, one of the bands of Reserve Indians, killing their chief, Placido, a good man, twenty-three of their warriors, and about an hundred of their women and children. The Toncawes, although armed with only bows and

arrows, while their assailants had weapons of the latest and best pattern, furnished them by the North, inflicted upon the latter, it was said, a loss of twenty-seven men in killed and wounded.

The ground of their assault upon the Toncawes is to be found, I suspect, in the fact of this band having sided with the whites against the Indians some time ago in Texas. Feuds among this singular race of people never die.

The remnant of the ill-fated Toncawe tribe, about forty men and less than a hundred women and children, made their way to Arbuckle a few days after the fight. They were in a most miserable and destitute condition.

• Before leaving the Chickasaw country, I wrote to the Governor of that nation, asking permission to place them temporarily on Rocky Creek, about eighteen miles east of Arbuckle, where there was excellent grazing for the few horses owned by them, plenty of wood and good water. His consent was readily obtained. A copy of his letter on the subject is hereto appended.

Dr. Sturm, the commissary before referred to, was instructed by me to remain with the Toncawes during the winter, and attend to the issuing of provisions to them, which would be supplied under the contract for feeding the Reserve Indians.

I did not visit the Reserve. It was unnecessary, as all the friendly Indians, from fear, were known to have abandoned it soon after the commission of the outrages, to which I have directed attention, and had fled to the Wichita mountains. A message, however, inviting the fugitives back to their homes, and couched in such terms as were calculated to allay their apprehensions, was transmitted to them, through Dr. Shirley, who accompanied a scouting party sent to the Reserve by Gen. Pike. Of the result of this undertaking the office has not yet been informed, although but little doubt is entertained of its success, as the Comanche chiefs, whose encampment was visited by certain white men immediately subsequent to the attack upon the Agency, and by whom they were assisted to escape, expressed the determination of returning, when all excitement had subsided, and they were assured of protection.

Dr. Shirley, it should likewise be stated, was also requested by me, while he remained upon the Reserve, to take charge of all government property there, and adopt the necessary measures to preserve it from waste.

Before dismissing the subject of the Reserve agency, a few remarks in reference to the wild Indians will not be out of place.

It is gratifying to be able to state, that they have recently evinced no great disposition to wage war upon the Confederate States. Indeed, with the exception of the Cai-a-was, they have never done so. This band, one of the most powerful and warlike of all the tribes leading a nomadic life upon the prairies and Staked Plain, refused all propositions of peace made to them in July, 1861, by the commissioner sent from this government to treat with the Indians west of Arkansas, and endeavored to prevail upon the Comanches to pursue a similar course. They were induced to act thus by Northern emissaries.

ries, who, at the same time provided them with rifles, six-shooters, and knives to be used in murdering and scalping defenceless women and children. In their wicked and bloody designs they failed to obtain the co-operation of the Comanches—several of the bands of which made a treaty with the commissioner. Latterly, however, even this fierce tribe has manifested some desire to cultivate friendly relations with the Confederate States.

On the 4th July last, some of the Cai-a-wa chiefs accompanied the Comanches in their visit to the Reserve agency to sign the treaty which had heretofore been made with a part of them, and while there, they also entered into a convention with the Confederate Government. That they really wished to be at peace, and intended to abide by the obligations of this convention, is strongly indicated by the fact of Tes-toth-cha, their principal chief, having come to the Reserve, some time before, to select a home for his band, and pointing out Elk Creek, in the vicinity of the Wichita mountains, as the place desired by him for the purpose.

The recent breaking up of the Reserve has interfered with all these arrangements—arrangements looking to the establishment of friendly relations with all the wild Indians, their permanent settlement, and cultivation of the arts of peace; but it is hoped that this may be speedily remedied by the return of the Reserve Indians to their homes, and the wise management henceforth of the affairs of the Agency.

The importance of this Reserve agency to the Confederate States is scarcely to be over estimated. The labor and expense necessary to keep it up, at least for some years, will be great; but it may well be urged, that peace on our extensive western frontier, which would, no doubt, result from its maintenance on a sound and healthful basis; the preservation of the lives and property of thousands of our citizens, and withal the gradual civilization of the roving Pagans of the prairies, offer the most ample remuneration for all the labor and all the expense to which the government may be subjected, should each be doubly as heavy, as there is any likelihood of its being.

Permit me to remark in this connection that a white and Indian force adequate to the protection of the Reserve should be constantly kept there; and that the necessary steps should, at once, be taken to rebuild the Agent's house, which was destroyed as hereinbefore stated.

In portions of the Indian country excessive drought has prevailed during the last two seasons. The crops were cut short, and some of the friendly Indians are, therefore, suffering. Corn, however, has been, and is still being supplied, as far as practicable, to the most needy among them, by the generals in command. These facts are mentioned that Congress may adopt such action on the subject, as, in its judgment, shall seem best.

I had intended to suggest, for your consideration, certain modifications of the law regulating trade and intercourse with the Indians, but have, upon reflection, deemed it inexpedient to do so. It contains features of somewhat doubtful propriety, yet having only recently been enacted, and therefore but imperfectly tested, I do not now feel altogether authorized to dispute its efficiency.

No effort of this office, in its operations heretofore, has been spared to guard the interests of the Confederate States, as well as those of the Indians, and it is sufficient to state, in conclusion, that for the future the same ends shall be had constantly in view.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

S. S. SCOTT,
Com. &c.

LIST of Documents accompanying the foregoing Report.

No. 1. Address to the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, and all other Indian nations and tribes friendly to the Confederate States, dated Dec. 26, 1862.

No. 2. Resolutions of the General Council of the Choctaw nation, approved Oct. 22d, 1862.

No. 3. Extract from a talk of the Creek chiefs, dated November 27th, 1862.

No. 4. Letter to Gov. Winchester Colbert, of the Chickasaw nation, dated Nov. 10th, 1862.

No. 5. Reply of Gov. Colbert to the foregoing, dated November 10th, 1862.

No. 6. Letter of Brig. Gen. Albert Pike, dated July 20th, 1862.

ADDRESS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
War Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs, }
 Richmond, December 26, 1862.

*To the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, and all
 other Indian Nations and Tribes friendly to the Confederate States:*

MY FRIENDS,—I have just returned to Richmond, the capital of the Confederate States, from your beautiful country. To visit you, I have traveled over six thousand miles in the last four months. The President of the Confederate States, one who loves you well, commanded me to make this journey—to see you at your homes—to converse with you face to face—in order that the Government might be placed in possession of certain and reliable information in regard to your wants and necessities, and the condition of your country.

During my stay in the Indian Territory, where I was treated by you with every kindness and courtesy, I had repeated talks with many of you. The facts obtained from you, in those interviews, have been treasured up in my memory, and shall be fully communicated to the Government. In the mean time, however, I desire to say a few additional words to you; and I trust you will give to them due consideration.

In the early part of the year 1861, Gen. Albert Pike, of Arkansas, was sent, as a Commissioner to your country, to explain to you the facts in relation to the organization of the Confederate Government, and to request you to extend to it the hand of peace and friendship. In pursuance of the authority with which he was invested, before the close of the year, he concluded treaties with all of you. These treaties have since been properly ratified; and you thereby became the allies of the Confederate States.

The Government in making these treaties with you, consulted your welfare and happiness, as well as its own. By reference to them, it will be perceived that every provision is marked by justice and liberality. Many rights and privileges are thereby extended to you, which were persistently denied you under the old Government. In short, by the terms of these treaties, you are made to occupy a high and exalted position—one adapted to your civilization and advancement, and suited to your pride and independence of character.

You are allowed delegates in Congress, whose exclusive duty consists in watching over and guarding your interests.

The establishment of courts in your midst is provided for, so that

you are not compelled to go for justice to the tribunals of neighboring States, but can have it administered to you at home.

The payment of all moneys, whether due to you from the old Government, or any of the States which composed it, is secured to you.

The peaceful and uninterrupted possession and enjoyment of your country forever, is guaranteed to you; and the power of the Confederate Government is pledged to assist you in defending it, at all times, and against all enemies.

From the character of these treaties, it seems, that the bond of friendship thus formed between the Confederate States and yourselves ought to endure forever; and such it is confidently believed will be the fact; for in addition to the reasons already enumerated, there yet remain other and most potent ones, why it should be so.

The people of the Confederate States are emphatically your friends and brothers. You are, in every sense of the word, Southern. The South was the home of your fathers. It was within the shadow of her deep forests and by the side of her sparkling streams, that they sported in their infancy, and hunted the deer and bear in their manhood; and it is in the bosom of her green valleys that their bones now lie buried. The territory, which you now occupy, and which has been set apart for you and your children forever, is Southern territory. Your language is Southern. Your habits, your manners and customs are Southern; and your interests are all Southern.

I have said *your interests are all Southern*. Herein the war, which is being waged upon the Confederate by the Northern States, directly affects you—affects you to the same extent that it does them. It is for your degradation and abasement—for the destruction of your property—for the overthrow of your institutions—as well as theirs. Slavery with you is as obnoxious to the fanaticism of the North as it is in the Confederate States; and could that Government subjugate them and deprive them of their slaves, it would not be long in taking yours from you also. But this is not all. After having dispossessed you of your slaves, it would fasten upon your rich and fertile lands, and distribute them among its surplus and poverty-stricken population, who have been looking toward them with longing hearts for years.

A word now in regard to the fortunes of the war. Within the last two years many battles have been fought. Some of these were on a scale of the greatest magnitude. In all of them, away from water courses, the Confederate troops, although greatly outnumbered, have uniformly proven victorious. Only a few days ago, the grand army of the North was defeated, with a loss in killed and wounded of about twenty thousand men, at Fredericksburg, in this State, by the Confederate forces under Gen. Lee. There is but little doubt that the results of future battles will be similar in character to those of the past. The Southern Indian is the fighting Indian; the Southern white man is the fighting white man; and they can never be subdued by Northern arms. As well might a single individual attempt to stay the sweep of a prairie fire.

Some delays have now and then occurred in the fulfillment of cer-

tain of the promises made to you by the Confederate Government. This could not be prevented. They were the result exclusively of this great and terrible war. Reflect this fact, should similar delays hereafter ensue. *The Confederate Government will comply strictly with all of its engagements to you.* Bear this always in mind, and never suffer yourselves to doubt it.

In conclusion, I will remark, that by a proper use of the facilities for advancement, which the Government of the Confederate States has placed within your reach, and under its fostering care and protection, inhabiting, as you do, a country healthful, finely watered, and possessed of every advantage of soil and climate, it will be easy for you, in a few years, to become powerful and prosperous nations. That you may energetically direct your efforts to the accomplishment of this great end, and that such efforts in connection with those of the Government in your behalf may be crowned with success, is the earnest wish and full expectation of the President and people of the Confederate States.

Your friend,

S. S. SCOTT,
Com. &c.

[No. II.]

1st. *Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled,* That the Choctaw nation has the utmost confidence in the good faith and firm friendship of the Government of the Confederate States.

2d. *Resolved, further,* That the Choctaw nation duly appreciates, and hereby acknowledges the many acts of kindness and care performed by that government toward the Choctaw people; and especially is the nation gratified at the act of said government in sending the chief officer of the Indian Department, S. S. Scott, Esq., as a special agent to enquire into the condition of the Choctaw country, and the wants of its people.

* * * *

Proposed by George Folsom.

Passed the House of Representatives Oct. 22, 1862.

B. L. LEFLORE,
Speaker of House.

Passed the Senate Oct. 22, 1862.

Z. HARRISON,
President of Senate.

Approved Oct. 22, 1862.

SAM'L GARLAND,
P. C. C. N.

JAMES RILEY,
National Secretary, Choctaw Nation.

[No. III.]

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, }
 November 27, 1862. }

To COL. S. S. SCOTT,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs:

SIR:

* * * * *

The interview we had with you to-day has been highly satisfactory, and we are gratified to know that the Confederate Government feels so deep an interest in us. We desire to be of it and to aid it; and we would here take the liberty to urge the necessity of it giving to our people that protection promised, and so very much needed, against the enemy, who now press us sorely and severely, and to whom we are so much exposed.

With best wishes for the success of our cause, and asking that the above receive your earliest attention, we have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

MOTey KANNARD,
 ECHO HARJO,

Principal Chiefs Creek Nation.

Attest:

GEO. W. WALKER, *Clerk.*

[No. IV.]

FORT ARBUCKLE, }
 November 10th, 1862. }

To Gov. WINCHESTER COLBERT,
Chickasaw Nation :

SIR: The Tonceawes, one of the friendly tribes settled on the Reserve, were driven from their homes, and several of their number killed, by a band of marauding Indians, who recently attacked the Wichita Agency. They had incurred the hatred of these Indians, because of their friendship for the Confederate government and the Chickasaw nation.

It is deemed impolitic to send the remnant of the tribe, now encamped near this post, back to the Reserve this winter. I, therefore, respectfully ask the privilege of placing them temporarily on Rocky or Clear Creek, near the road leading from Fort Washita to Arbuckle, and about eighteen miles from the latter.

I am, respectfully,
 Your obedient servant,

S. S. SCOTT,
Com., &c.

[No. V.]

FORT ARBUCKLE, }
 November 10, 1862. }

To Hon. S. S. SCOTT,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs :

SIR : Your communication of this morning asking the privilege of removing the Toncawes from their camp near this post, (they having come there because of an attack upon them at the Wichita Agency,) has been duly considered by me in conjunction with Colonel Pickens, Captain Gamble and Captain Sheco.

You are therefore fully authorized to make this temporary removal of these Indians, provided they are subject to the laws of the Chickasaw nation, and will furnish guides to the Home Guards and the Chickasaw Battalion, when called upon to do so.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. COLBERT,
Governor.

[No. VI.]

HEADQUARTERS, FORT McCULLOCH, }
July 20, 1862. }S. S. SCOTT, Esq.,
Acting Comm'r Indian Affairs :

SIR: I am glad to have to report that since the fourth of this month about four hundred of the wild Comanches, accompanied by the Caiawa chiefs, have been in at the Wichita Agency; and that the former have renewed the treaty made by part of them, and the latter have entered into the convention sent up by me for their consideration. They waited some days in the hope of seeing me, but I could not go, being under orders to take a different direction.

My absence was so explained that it did no harm; and the agent informs me that these tribes are now perfectly peaceable, contented and satisfied. Only one band of the Comanches remains to be treated with. They reside on the Staked Plain, and it is promised they will be in in September.

* * * *

I am, very respectfully yours,

ALBERT PIKE,
Brigadier General, &c.

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